GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:231
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2003
RAILWAY OFFICIALS INVOLVED WITH TOUTS
MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL;RATNA SINGH

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the railway officials at the major railway stations hand-in-glove with the touts involved in blackmarketing of railway tickets as a result of which train passengers are facing difficulties in getting tickets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons arrested including the railway officers and staff during the last three years in this regard; and

(d) the action being taken by the Government and the result achieved so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENTREFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OSTARRED QUESTION NO.233 BYSHRIMATI RAJKUMAR RATNA SINGH & DR. M.P. JAISWAL TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 06.03.2003 REGARDING RAILWAY OFFIC INVOLVED WITH TOUTS

(a) to (d): During the last three years commencing from 1999-2000, the number of persons apprehended for touting activities was 8548. The possibility of connivance of some Railway officials with touts cannot be ruled out. Regular checks are being conducted in the area of reservations by Commercial, Vigilance and RPF Departments to detect and prevent various malpractices therein.The number of railway officials taken up under disciplinary rules for various irregularities detected during the course of these checks during the last three years was 2481.

Railways have taken various measures to discourage touting activities some of which are mentioned below:-

(i) Intensive checks by Vigilance, Commercial and Railway Protection Force (RPF) Departments.

(ii) Substantial increase in accommodation in the trains by introducing new trains, increasing frequency of existing trains, running longer trains from 20 coaches to 24 coaches, attaching extra coaches in the trains, running special trains during rush periods, etc.

(iii) Opening of 257 computerised Passenger Reservation locations during last three years.

(iv) Introducing reservation of tickets through internet.

(v) Display of reservation status and availability of accommodation on Railway`s website, electronic and print media, etc.